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U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
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Report of
10th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP
Washington, D.C.
September 19-21, 1955

by

Geraldine G. Fenn
Associate State 4-H Club Leader, Montana

This was the first time I attended this conference and it was an interesting experience. It was fine to be associated with the four Extension youth representatives and to work with them in trying to get the most from the conference. The delegation consisted of:

4-H Club Representatives

Eileen Steiger - Montana
William Saulcy - Colorado

YW Representatives

Betty Jean Varner - North Carolina
Earl Joseph Snyder - West Virginia

Advisor

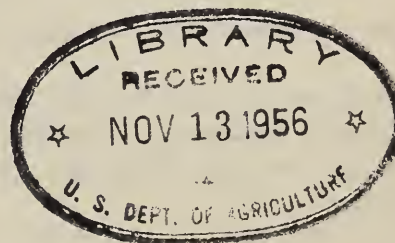
Geraldine G. Fenn
Associate State 4-H Club Leader, Montana, and member of National 4-H
Citizenship Program Development Committee.

It was noted that 16 home demonstration women from North Carolina participated and the Citizenship Chairman of the National Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs who is from Maryland. There may have been others. Other Extensioners we met included:

Marjorie Luce - Home Demonstration Leader, Vermont
Evelyn Scott - Assistant Home Demonstration Agent Leader, Maryland
Helen Turner - Home Economics Programs, Federal Extension Service
Dorothy Gentry - Associate State 4-H Club Agent, Virginia

Also participating were:

Loise Johnson, Home Economist, National Committee on Boys and Girls
Club Work
Dr. Glenn Dildine, Coordinator, Citizenship Improvement Project, National
4-H Club Foundation



Some ideas which the young people had for using this experience back home included:

1. Encourage 4-H and YMW groups to do something in connection with National Citizenship Day, September 17. Perhaps have a program.
2. Tell people back home about Citizenship Day and about the National Citizenship Conference---talks, radio, TV, news articles.
3. Encourage a film - discussion program on citizenship in YMW groups or in the community.
4. Get a number of organizations to cooperate on a citizenship program.
5. Encourage 4-H Clubs and YMW to attend naturalization ceremonies.
6. Make a special occasion of becoming 21 years old and ready to vote.
7. Have programs on voting--rights and responsibilities.

Appreciation is due to the National 4-H Club Foundation and to members of the Federal Extension Service who extended many courtesies and were very helpful in seeing that the group gained as much as possible from the experience.

To aid next year's participation, I have outlined what I did this year as an advisor and made some recommendations which I hope will be helpful.

I. What the advisor did

- A. Wrote Extension youth delegates in advance making suggestions for meeting together; emphasizing acquaintance with 4-H Citizenship activities in own county and State; and expressing pleasure in the opportunity to be associated with them.
- B. Met with delegates each day
- C. Attended all sessions of the conference
 1. Participated in Discussion Group 8 which talked about:
 - a. Are our blessings of liberty in danger?
 - b. What are some suggestions for preserving the blessings of liberty?
- D. Tried to help young people become acquainted with as many Home Demonstration, National 4-H Club Foundation, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work and Federal and State Extension personnel as I could. Several times it was possible to arrange meals with some of these people.
- E. Helped delegates think through what to present at luncheon in USLA, on Wednesday.
 1. Betty - The general sessions
 - a. Opening session
 - b. Luncheon
 - c. Musical program
 - d. Dinner
 - e. Naturalization ceremony and closing session
 2. Bill - What happened in the discussion groups?

- a. What was it like?
- b. What were the results?
3. Joe - What can we take back home?
4. Eileen - Some suggestions for another year
5. Miss Fenn - Overall comments and questions raised
 - a. Who forms the policy for this conference and plans the program?
 - b. What kind of training do the discussion leaders receive? How are these leaders chosen?
 - c. Is there a way for Extension to make suggestions during the planning stages of the conference?
 - d. What do representatives of 4-H, YMW, Home Demonstration and other Extension groups gain from participation?
 - e. Should the whole Extension family - youth, home demonstration and other - get together and evaluate the experience each year?
- F. Reviewed with the young people, the persons to whom they might like to send post cards and/or notes. This included:
 1. Parents and family
 2. Leaders and/or officers of clubs
 3. County Extension personnel
 4. State Extension personnel
 5. Donors of expenses
 6. Mr. Norman Mindrum, Executive Director, National 4-H Club Foundation, 8561 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland
 7. Mr. C.C. Lang, Associate Leader, 4-H Club and YMW Programs, Federal Extension Service
 8. Miss Fern Shipley, Associate Leader, 4-H Club and YMW Programs, Federal Extension Service
 9. Miss Tena Bishop, Associate Leader, 4-H Club and YMW Programs, Federal Extension Service.
- G. Urged delegates to turn in a brief report or evaluation before leaving Washington. Prepared a report and recommendations. Wrote a letter to each delegate's State and county Extension people.

II. Suggestions for next year

- A. Have delegates and the advisor selected before National 4-H Club Camp.
 1. Advisor can then discuss responsibilities with C. C. Lang
 2. Advisor can write delegates to start them preparing for the experience
 3. 1955 delegates would be glad to write to 1956 delegates
 4. 1955 advisor would be glad to send a packet and a letter of assistance to the new advisor
 5. C. C. Lang send a copy of the 1955 report to each representative next year.
3. If possible, it would probably be a good idea to have a two or three day Extension youth workshop prior to the National Citizenship Conference. This would prepare our delegates better for the experience. This could be done jointly perhaps, by a representative of the National 4-H Foundation and the Federal Extension Staff.

- C. If the preceding idea is not possible, then the attached "Suggested Schedule" might be helpful for next year. Note that the starred items are new ideas or modifications and include:
1. Arrival on Saturday
 2. Visits to National Shrines
 3. Official picture Monday morning
 4. A few separate youth sessions
 - a. First coffee hour
 - b. One discussion period
 - c. Buffet luncheon on Tuesday
 5. Expand the USDA luncheon reporting to include the Extension family
 6. Have afternoon evaluation sessions on Wednesday
- D. Have an exhibit at the National Citizenship Conference.
1. "4-H Woven into the Web of Life" would be good.
 2. Is there one which depicts the total Extension program with 4-H and YMW as a part of it?
- E. Have the correct designation of the Extension Service in the final printed program.
- F. Suggest Federal 4-H staff representative write to Judge Hyatt now commending the effort and try to get the door open for making suggestions and taking part in some of the initial planning.
1. Seems like one Federal 4-H staff member and one Federal Extension Home Economics staff member could be very helpful on the central planning committee.
 2. Some suggestions could be made for including youth on the planning committee.
 3. Perhaps Extension could offer some help in training the discussion leaders. Could some Extension folks act as discussion leaders?
- G. If time permits, perhaps the advisor would like to prepare a circular letter to all of each delegates' own county and State Extension personnel. This could help them see possibilities for using this person in building their program at home.
- H. This year the Future Homemakers of America planned their officers school with the dates of National Citizenship Conference in mind. They selected three girls and an advisor to attend the Citizenship Conference.
1. It might be a nice idea if Extension youth and the FHA representatives could be brought together--perhaps sit together at the first luncheon or something.

EVALUATION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

September 19-21, 1955

Washington, D.C.

by

Eileen Steiger, Montana

4-H Club Representative

What is good citizenship? Helping others? Studying politics? Learning about what is going on in the world? Yes, I think so - and then so much more. Citizenship covers so many things it would take a book to explain them all.

The biggest thing the conference has done for me is made me think - think of what citizenship in this free country has done for me and what it will do for me and others in the future.

The theme of the conference was "The Blessings of Liberty". Our discussion group felt that some of our liberties were in danger - the cause - fear. To find a solution to that, we first had to have some idea what caused this fear. The main reason, it was finally agreed upon, was ignorance.

The group then proceeded to discuss what to do about this ignorance. Of course, no definite solution was decided upon, as that is impossible with a subject as broad and as serious as this. The discussion took thinking and concentration to be able to understand everyone. This, I think, was good.

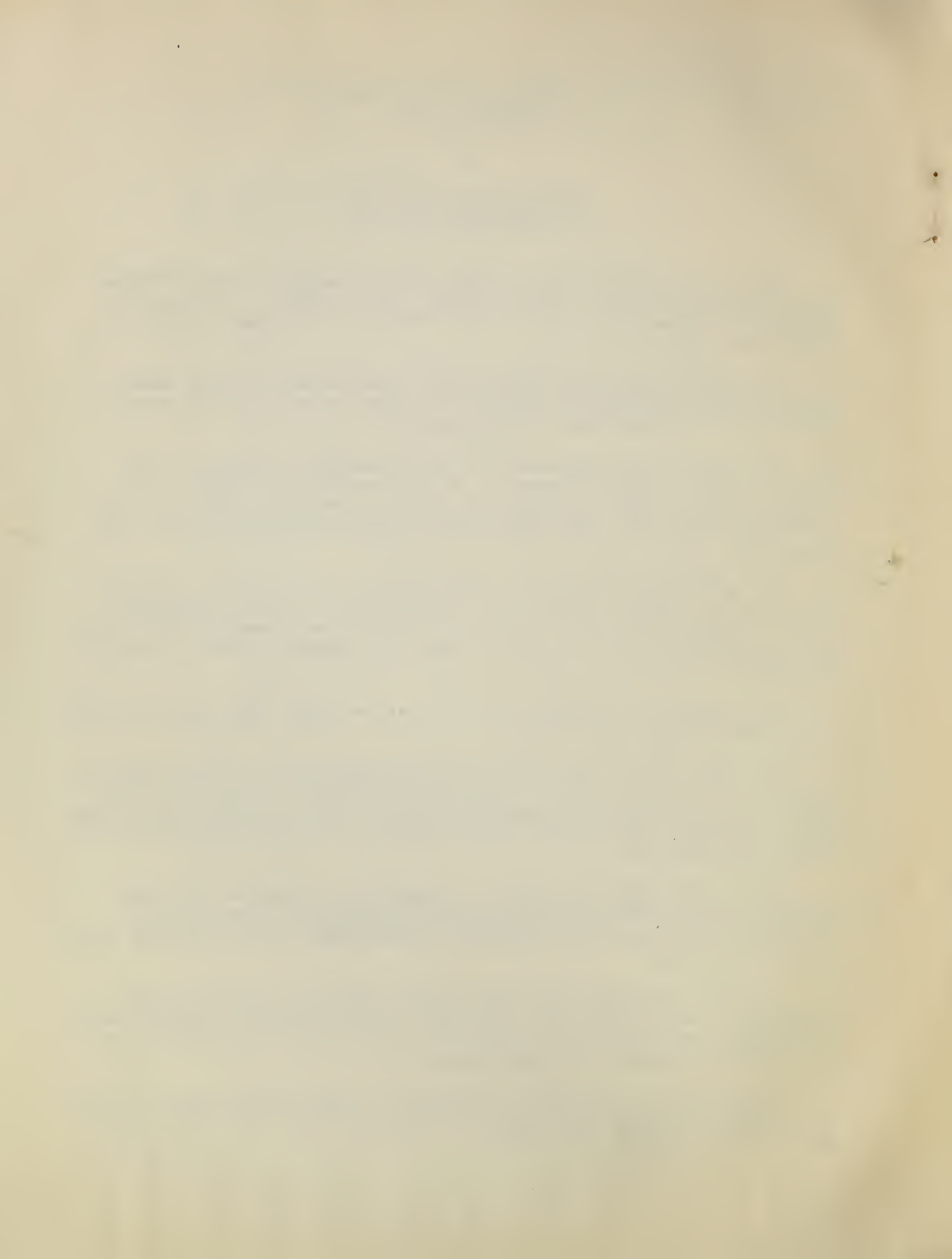
The speakers in assemblies were very interesting. They spoke on topics of interest at the present time.

The close of the conference was the perfect time for a naturalization ceremony. It made me think of the work other people go through to become citizens in this wonderful country and made us wonder if we were not taking for granted what other people work so hard for and what our ancestors have fought and died for.

Here, in the Nation's Capital - working with and living with such wonderful 4-H and YMW members also made us conscious of our freedom to get together and also how it takes good citizenship to get along with others and our Government.

Actually represented were those in the immediate territory around Washington. If the conference were more widely publicized, probably people from further away would become interested and attend. The conference was interesting, inspiring, and challenging.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me have this wonderful experience - an experience that will stand out as one of the big thrills of my life.



EVALUATION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

September 19-21, 1955

Washington, D. C.

By

William Saulcy, Colorado

4-H Club Representative

After the conference is over; after my newly-found friends have bade me goodbye; after I return home and fall into the daily swing of life, reality begins and the questions arise: "What have I actually gained from my experience and, moreover, has my community experienced a change as a direct result of my leadership. I can say I had a wonderful trip; I greatly enjoyed seeing the great buildings in our Capital City; I took an active part in the discussions concerning citizenship and - yes - even argued with the best corporation lawyers. But does this mean that I am qualified to return home and lead, perhaps, a young citizens group in which I freely quote sayings of Colonel Pangburn or theory of John W. Davis? No, and I dare say that I would feel more humble in the presence of my county people than many with whom I have associated during the conference.

I have learned citizenship is not a theoretical utopia enjoyed by a few, but rather is a reality practiced by everyday Americans. I have found that the people I have associated with in my county are doing their part just as well as an active politician or statesman. Moreover, I have found that these acts of citizenship have been noticed, acknowledged, and commended. I now have the fuller meaning of true citizenship - that being, that an active individual is the foundation of a democracy. I can now relate my experiences to my people at home and encourage initiative by the individual in acts of good citizenship contributing to mutual welfare.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the National 4-H Club Foundation and the others who have helped make this experience possible and so enjoyable for me.

EVALUATION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

September 19-21, 1955

Washington, D. C.

By

Betty Jean Varner, North Carolina
YMW Representative

Four young people, two representatives of 4-H Club work and two representatives of YMW Clubs met Sunday, September 18, 1955, at Hotel Martinique in Washington, D. C. for the 10th National Conference on Citizenship, September 19-21. The purpose was to acquaint ourselves with the problems of citizenship today and learn what we as young people could do to make better citizens of ourselves and those with whom we come in contact.

The conference convened September 19 at Hotel Statler. Our theme for this conference was "The Blessings of Liberty". Now what are the blessings of liberty? Something we inherit by being born in the United States of America? Well, yes, but does it stop there? We know that the Bill of Rights in writing gives us freedom of press, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly and petition, but is reading the Constitution all that is required of us to make good citizens of this our United States of America? Well, I've just learned at this the 10th National Conference on Citizenship that it takes much more than reading and memorizing our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

In the keynote address of the conference, the Honorable Harry P. Cain brought to our minds that our rights as citizens might well be in danger if we didn't acquaint ourselves with the duties that are ours as citizens of this a free nation and it was with these thoughts in mind that we entered in our discussion groups to try to find means of making ourselves citizens worthy of the freedom granted in the aged old document, our Constitution.

When should we begin to be concerned about our duties to be good citizens? When we reach the voting age? When we reach the high school? No, we must begin to educate ourselves to the duties at a very early age. It was decided in our discussion groups that education was a very important factor in good citizenship and that the education should begin at home. Therefore, the adults must be the first ones to be builders of good citizenship, not just expecting the schools to do all the teachings and that there is never a stopping point and that we must continue to grow and broaden our minds.

Also is just being good citizens ourselves enough? No, we must work in our clubs, radio, TV, and films to make others aware of the fact that it is necessary for them to be concerned and that they must work as a force to create good citizenship.

There were many things discussed at the conference too numerous to mention, but I am convinced that the average person is almost ignorant of his responsibilities to make a good citizen, and education is most important.

As a young person, I was both surprised and pleased at the way I was received into the group of adults who made up our discussion group. They not only wanted my opinions but asked me many direct questions on different subjects. I also found this true throughout the conference. In addition to the facts I've learned, I feel that I have benefited so very much from having had the chance to join in a discussion with people from all walks of life and hear their concern of how we as individuals and as a nation can become better citizens.

The addresses delivered by Honorable Harry P. Cain, member of Subversive Activities Control Board; Honorable Walter J. Mason, with the American Federation of Labor; and the Honorable Boyd Campbell, President of Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, made us ever mindful of our "Blessings of Liberty", but also mindful of the duty we have to ourselves and to our fellow man to be good citizens.

I am deeply appreciative to the National 4-H Foundation for making it possible for me to attend this conference and to gain such valuable information to take back and apply in my own community.

EVALUATION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP
September 19-21, 1955
Washington, D.C.

By

Earl Joseph Snyder, West Virginia
YMW Representative

The conference has been of great educational value to me because it has given me a chance to participate with adults as well as fellow youth in discussing the problems of citizenship. It was amazing to me the way the adults welcomed us into their groups. They actually seemed to realize that we are important in developing the full picture of citizenship.

The conference also enabled the rural to discuss in reciprocity; their problems with the urban - likewise, the colored with the white, the lawyer with the educator, etc. I think that anyone who attended the conference and who diligently worked with the discussion groups, learned a broader concept of citizenship. I, for one, was amazed at how little I actually knew about this highly important subject.

First, I never realized how often we talk of democracy but how little we actually practice it. We are all too often forgetting that our government is based on the fact that all citizens should have equal rights under the laws.

Secondly, the problem of security measures never seemed to bother me. Now a question has been raised in my mind as to whether or not security measures as we know them today are justified. Even after attending this conference I do not feel prepared to answer this question. However, I do have the interest aroused to further study the situation in order that I may make a practical and logical decision.

Also, the vast problem of educating the people in the facts of citizenship was called to my attention. It seems that our system is lacking in at least two very important places - the junior and senior high groups and the groups in the ages of 13-21. Just how this can be improved was not solved. However, I am going to try some experimental programs in my own community that may be helpful in disseminating this information to the above groups.

One thing that amazed and irritated me was the fact that many of the adults thought that only youth needed educating. I will grant that youth need the guidance and help of the adults but I do not believe the average adult is beyond the realm of learning more about citizenship and democracy.

I, for one, am now an avid supporter of the conference and hope that in the future the rural youth will continue to have delegates. There is much that could be said for the conference but no adequate words can be found to describe it justly. It was one of the best lessons in Americanism that any American boy could possibly get.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR EXTENSION YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN 1956

NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, September 15, 1956

*Delegation arrive during afternoon and evening.

Hotel Martinique is a convenient and reasonable place to stay if the conference is again held at Hotel Statler.

Sunday, September 16, 1956

Have breakfast together and get acquainted. (YWCA cafeteria opened at 8:30 a.m.).

*Go sightseeing together and visit some of the national shrines.

Attend church together according to the choices of the group.

Have noon meal together.

Register for the conference and get the meeting rooms located.

Registration was 2:00-8:00 p.m. on the upper lobby of Hotel Statler.

5:00 p.m. have a group orientation meeting (Hotel Martinique has a small parlor which could be reserved for this).

1. Look over materials in registration envelope.
2. Check discussion group numbers and meeting places for groups.
3. Review material on discussions and talk about how best to take part.
4. Review Monday's program carefully and decide on meeting times and places.
5. Start serious thinking on looking for ideas to use at home.

6:45 p.m. eat together with Mindrum, Bierman, Dildine, and as many of the Federal Extension Youth staff as possible. (Allies Inn was satisfactory for this.)

It is helpful for the young people to realize who the Foundation and the Federal staff people are before they go into the conference where there is such a flood of new people.

Monday, September 17, 1956

8:00 a.m. have breakfast (Hotel Martinique dining room would be convenient. This was not open on Saturdays and Sundays).

Go to conference coffee hour as a group.

*There was such a big crowd of people at this and the Extension Youth representatives had little opportunity to meet other youth. It would

help, perhaps, if a youth coffee hour were held in a separate room. This would give them a start in getting acquainted.

*9:00 a.m. have official picture taken standing by conference theme exhibit. If this is done the first thing on Monday, then prints can be airmailed home while the conference is in progress.

Participation in conference as outlined in program. This may include an official luncheon at noon.

Group may or may not want to arrange to eat together before the evening musical program. Time might be somewhat limited.

Have orientation meeting of about one hour after the evening musical program.

1. Review the day's experiences, particularly in the discussion groups.
2. List ideas gained which might be used at home in club, community, county and State.
3. Review Tuesday's program carefully and decide on meeting times and places.

Tuesday, September 18, 1956

8:00 a.m. have breakfast(Hotel Martinique dining room would be convenient.)

8:45 have group meeting, possibly schedule small parlor at Hotel Martinique.

1. Review list of people to whom they will want to send postcards and notes of appreciation. These might include:
 - a. Parents and other family members
 - b. Leaders and/or club officers
 - c. County Extension personnel
 - d. State 4-H personnel
 - e. Donors of expenses and others who have extended courtesies to the delegation.
2. In many instances the young people will need help with the spelling of names; with titles and with exact addresses.

Participation in conference as outlined in program.

- *1. The young people expressed the hope that they could have at least one work session of all youth and more chances to get acquainted with youth.
 - a. *Could the conference itself provide some sort of buffet luncheon Tuesday noon for the youth? This kind of affair would enable them to move about and talk to each other.
 - b. * Could all youth join in a discussion session on Tuesday? This would probably eliminate them from one of the regular discussions held on this day.

4:15 p.m. have group meeting for one hour. (Suggest small parlor at Hotel Martinique).

1. Review the day's experiences.
2. Add to list of ideas gained.

3. Discuss plans for sharing experiences at home.
4. Make plans for reporting in Department of Agriculture the next day.
5. Discuss the making of a written report.
6. Review Wednesday's program carefully and decide on meeting times and places.
7. Check on plans for returning home.

6:30 p.m. meet and go to annual dinner in a group.

Wednesday, September 19, 1956

Probably by this time the young people will want to be on their own for breakfast and then be on hand to join in the conference program as outlined.

*12:30 noon luncheon of the Extension family in the Department of Agriculture.
Report from youth representatives
Report from home demonstration representatives
Others?

*2:00 separate evaluation and "what-I'm-going-to-do-at-home" sessions.
Group I. 4-H Club and YMW Programs
Group II. Home Demonstration
Group III. Other?

3:30 free time for shopping

6:30 youth delegation have final meal together (YWCA cafeteria would be convenient).

8:00 youth delegates prepare their written reports and turn them in to the group advisor.

